

Water Supply Protection Committee Meeting Minutes April 29, 2011

Committee members present: Lyons Witten, chair; Steve Mabee; John Tobiason
Members not present: Steve Dunn; Jesse Schwalbaum. Quorum not attained.
Town Employees present: Amy Lane; David Ziomek; Jason Skeels; Ellie Kurth
Guests/Members of the Public: Michael Krasnik

Meeting was held at the DPW offices, our usual meeting place, starting at 8 am.

1) Introduction of Amy Lane, new Assistant Superintendant of Public Works for Operations. Amy previously worked for Tighe & Bond Consulting Engineers (T&B), where she worked on water and sewer projects for the Town of Amherst. Amy will oversee operations for drinking water, waste water, and the transfer station. Ellie Kurth does environmental and water quality monitoring, well and landfill/transfer station monitoring and septic NPDES permit monitoring.

2) Groundwater Quality Monitoring. We started this discussion with an explanation from EK on the difference between the routine groundwater monitoring that the Town has done for years in the vicinity of the Old Landfill, around the Lawrence Swamp Aquifer, and elsewhere designed to monitor general groundwater quality, and the more comprehensive round of monitoring conducted on behalf of the Town by Tighe & Bond (T&B) as part of the Comprehensive Site Assessment (CSA) on the Old Landfill. The T&B CSA Report (2 parts) and a T&B report on the thickness of the Old Landfill cap were recently published and were made available at this meeting to the Committee for the first time. One of the three reports had been scanned and published to the Town's web site and the other two were still being scanned and were scheduled to be up on the web site by the end of the day. The Committee took the reports under advisement and committed to read them once they had been published on the web site and were easily downloaded.

3) Mr. Krasnik had several comments and opinions on the Old Landfill and reports he read in DEP files regarding the Old Landfill:

- a) The cap does not meet the 1985 landfill standards, is insufficiently thick and too permeable;
- b) Leachate from the Old Landfill does not meet GW quality standards;
- c) He felt that the T&B reports which he had apparently reviewed at DEP point to potential future contamination of Lawrence Swamp Aquifer and he noted that the Brickyard Well was already closed.

4) The Committee heard a partial summary of the T&B data from EK and JS:

- a) No volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected above standards;
- b) Arsenic was detected at elevated concentrations just downgradient of the Old Landfill; if any trend exists in wells 2-08 and 10-08 it is likely downward, not increasing, but best described as sporadic detections;

5) Mr. Krasnic expressed concern about risk of people ingesting fish caught in Gull Pond. He noted the sediment results from Gull Pond had elevated metals concentrations. The Committee noted that surface water results did not contain elevated metals. EK volunteered to examine the risk assessment data in the T&B reports as it related to this concern.

6) Mr. Krasnic quoted a leachate volume figure from the T&B reports and expressed concern that the Old Landfill cap was too thin and that the excessive leachate volume would harm the quality of drinking water supplies nearby.

a) JT and SM indicated that the leachate volume figures floating around in recent emails are based upon HELP Model calculations and according to the T&B reports should be used as an “order of magnitude” figure, not an absolute figure as expressed in the e-mails.

7) LW expressed concern that Mr. Krasnik was expressing concern about groundwater quality when his real concerns might be photovoltaic (PV) panels proposed for installation on the Old Landfill. Mr. Krasnik responded that his concern is for the landfill cap and that the cap should be upgraded prior to any PV project. LW responded that in that case his comments were welcome.

8) AL discussed rehabilitation efforts on Well #4:

- a) Replaced green sand and filters at plant
- b) Cleaned and video-taped the well screen; Fe and Mg removed;
- c) Capacity has improved since this cleaning.

9) Pump Test at Well #2 occurred with the aid of UMass graduate students

- a) Step-drawdown test was conducted then a 5-day extended drawdown test.
- b) Results were used for adjustments to the Water Management Act (WMA) Permit for Wells #1 and #2 which can now each be pumped varying amounts up to the total for the two wells which has not increased. This change in the WMA Permit allows the Town more flexibility that previously did not exist;
- c) Wells #1 and #2 used to have a single combined meter and are now metered separately for DEP records.

10) Centennial Water Treatment Plant (WTP) needs a face lift and upgrade over the next 2-3 years. Water quality should increase/improve with the upgrades;

- a) DPW is working on inter-municipal agreement with Pelham;
- b) DZ asked if this increase in septic flow caused by increased availability of town water would open land in Pelham which previously did not perc and would now be developable.

11) Atkins WTP – nothing new to report.

12) Watershed Protection Activities. DZ reported that Conservation Dept has hired a land manager (Brad ___) who is monitoring land use activities w/in watershed of our drinking water supplies. Collaboration between DPW and Conservation Dept is working well for

water shed protection. Land Manager is working on Forester's License and will be working on cutting plan for watershed lands to both retain water quality and land health.

- a) Several parcels are currently being looked at for APR and watershed protection.
- b) Good time to purchase land.

13) Mr. Krasnik quoted a 1994 study indicating elevated lead in leachate at Old Landfill.

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- a) EK suggested that Mr. Krasnik contact Larry Hanson at DEP who reviewed the T&B Reports on GW quality and landfill cap thickness.

*Minutes written and typed by Lyons Witten, Chair.
Not reviewed by the committee.*